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An Essay
on
Hæmorrhoids

by
Wm. E. Huger
of S. Carolina

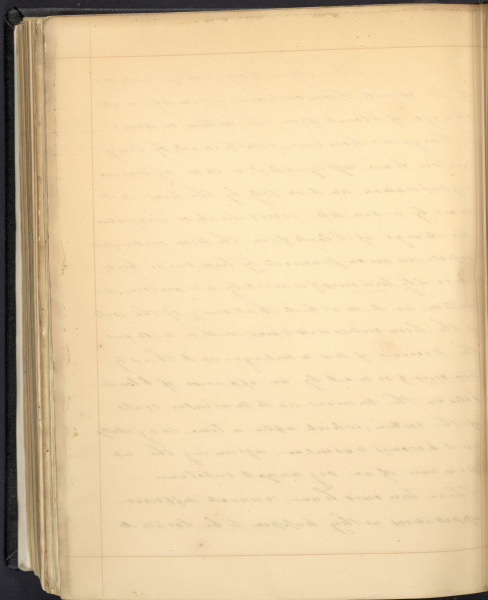
for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine
- 1827 -

Sept. 11. 1871
W. L. H.

The ship
arrived
at 2 o'clock
of the morning
of the 11th of Sept. 1871

The etymological meaning
of the word hemorrhoid, is simply a dis-
charge of blood from the rectum or anus.

Surgeons have ever, sanctioned by long
custom, have assigned it a more extensive
signification, and imply by the term, not
merely a simple periodical or irregular
discharge of blood from the hemorrhoidal
veins, or arteries by their own veins; but
usually, hemorrhoids formed by a varicose dis-
tention and morbid thickening of the coats
of the hemorrhoidal veins, with or without
the presence of hemorrhage; and thirdly,
hemorrhoids formed by an effusion of blood
between the mucous and muscular coats
of the rectum, which after a time coagulates
and becomes vascular, assuming the ap-
pearance of an organized substance.
These hemorrhoids have received different
appellations, as they happen to be located



on the inside, or outside of the sphincter
ani muscle. When within the sphincter,
they are termed internal hemorrhoids—
When without the sphincter, external
hemorrhoids, or piles— They are
also distinguished by the epithet—open
when they discharge blood, and blind
when on body or pile, when they are un-
attended by a discharge— The blood
is accumulated under these circumstances,
may be derived either from the arteries,
or veins, and may arise from three dis-
tinct sources, or rather causes, namely, from
an aneurism, from the rupture of varicose
veins, which break from their too great
distention; or else, from an abrasion of the
coats of the coats & veins, produced by
the pressure of hardened feces—

Women are more frequently the sub-
jects of this disease, than men; in con-

sequence of their being more exposed
to the remote, and exciting causes—

Persons at an early in life, are more
liable to be attacked by this disease,
than those, who are young, and particu-
larly, so here they happen to be large
and corpulent; however, thin and
sensitive people, are not entirely exempt
from the disease—

The causes of the disease, are very nu-
merous and diversified; and among the
most frequent may be enumerated, a
costive habit of body; pregnancy, and
particularly when attended by difficult
labour; relaxation and debility of
the whole living mechanism of the
primæ viæ, and particularly of the
rectum; the suppression of some long
accustomed discharge, as the menses,
or the healing of an old ulcer &c;

seen or cause of any kind, particularly on
hose-back - The daily employment of
news paper from which the printer's ink is
easily separated, has a tendency to keep up
the disease; as the delicate epithelium, which
covers the tumours, is very much irritated
by the frequent application of so stimulating
a substance. — Those persons are most
subject to this disease, who are of a full habit
of body; and are compelled by their occu-
pations, to lead a sedentary life. —

The Rectum, is peculiarly liable to in-
flamation and all its consequences, from
several circumstances. In the first place,
from its situation, being less subject
to the compressed pressure of the dia-
phragm and abdominal muscles; and
also to pressure, arising from a disten-
sion or enlargement of any of the abdominal
viscera; which pressure in both instances

has a direct tendency to retard the passage
of the blood through the hemorrhoidal
veins. The blood has not only to con-
tend against its own gravitation, but
is deprived of the assistance of valves, but
as has been observed, the contractions
of the muscles has a tendency to retard its
progress; differing in this respect, from
veins in other parts of the body, where
muscular action tends to facilitate the
passage of venous blood towards the centre
of circulation. — Secondly, the rectum
from its proximity to the uterus and vagi-
na, in the female; and the bladder and
prostate gland, in the male, is liable
to be affected by their several diseases,
or an enlargement of either of these
organs, may in consequence of pressure,
produce irritation, or by retarding the
circulation of the part, give rise to infla-

ation, which may terminate in the pro-
duction of various tumours, or an obstruc-
tion of blood in the cellular texture—

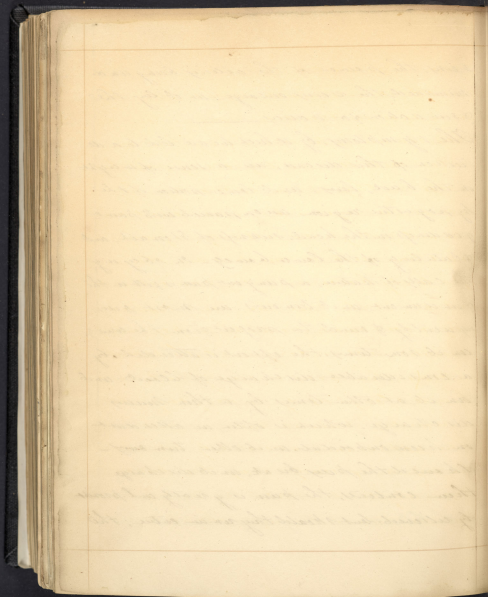
The structure of the rectum is well
calculated to favour the formation of
tumours, in consequence of the looseness of
its cellular texture, which readily admits
of great distortion—The peculiar arrange-
ment of the Muscular fibres of the lower
portion of this intestine, would seem to
favour the formation of piles, the longi-
tudinal being so arranged, as to pass over
the edge of the circular fibres, constituting
what is termed the internal sphincter;
and are certainly or rather lost in the
Mucous Membrane—The cellular texture
about the anus being loose, when bleeding
effused, we have distinct or cryptic piles
or else a tumid ring, surrounding the
entire verge of the anus—The Mucous

coat being very loose, adapts itself to the dilatations and contractions of the muscular part of the intestine; and hence, as the blood contracts, this coat is thrown into vertical columns, and it turns back & obliquely the sphincter muscle. It not infrequently happens, that one or more of these folds are protruded, during the evacuation of the bowels.

Thirdly, the rectum & sigmoid colon is sometimes subject to disease; & or the feculent matter accumulating in its cavity, distends it so large, and it thus creates an obstacle to the free passage of the blood through the veins; the capillaries chiefly suffer in this case. & or the large veins ramify on the outer wall surface of the intestine. The feculent continuing to accumulate, the rectum being more and more distended, the circulation of the blood is at length suspended in the

veins; the power of the artery being undi-
minished; the veins enlarge, and by the
of undulation of the artery.

The symptoms, by which we are led to a de-
tection of this disease, are a sense of weight
in the back, limbs, and lower portion of the
hypogastric region, an enlargement with pain-
giddiness in the head, sickness of stomach, and
distending of the lower bowels. On obeying
the call of nature, a pungent pain is felt in the
of undulation, and the arteries are most pre-
sagaciously found to project from the anus;
and sometimes the effort is attended, by
a considerable discharge of blood: and
and at other times by a thin mucus
discharge, which is often an attendant
on haemorrhoids, and other tumours.
Should the piles break, and discharge
their contents, the pain is greatly and promptly
relieved; but should they remain entire, the



pain is renewed every time the patient
has occasion to evacuate his bowels—They
are generally free from pain, as long as
they remain internal, being then in
contact with soft and yielding parts, but
as soon as they obtain exit to the rectum, they
increase in size, and at each period, are
retained with greater difficulty, requiring
much time and pains to remove them,
gradually becoming more painful and
irritable, at the same time hard, stationary,
very incoercible, indurated, and of great
consistence—not so frequent, the sphincter
in braces them closely, as to cause
them to slough off by undergoing what
is termed a Natural cure—

The appearances, presented by these tubercles
turning, are of twenty & sixing, their number,
depending on the period they have existed,
they are situated around the neck of the

anus, some times of a regular bulbous, and
at other times of an irregular appearance;
of a dark blue color, sometimes in some
instances, a bunch of grapes, they are covered
with a very delicate skin, which partly consists
of the fine skin immediately on the outside
of the anus, and partly of the mucous mem-
brane of the intestine. The tumours are
generally entire, but they have occasionally
small openings, through which blood is
discharged, and when they happen to be
ruined, the quantity lost is sometimes very
considerable.

Le-Dran. makes a distinction between
ruined, and been ossified tumours, by contrast-
ing the circumstances of their development
and progress. Ruined commence by slow
degeneration, unmarked by pain, irritation, or heat
they are soft to the touch, oblong in form,
and evince no hardness, until the blood

which they contain coagulables. They pro-
duce no pain, are less irritated or tornally,
or become greatly distended with blood.
Their volume progressively increases; they
are not subject to periodical changes; never
shrink and disappear, or produce a dis-
charge of blood, unless when injured by
accidents, or degenerate into ulcers; and
that they exhibit no disposition to migrate
within or between. On the other
hand, hemorrhoids appear suddenly, and
are most frequently preceded by itching,
and prickling sensations about the rectum
and anus; weight in the perineum, and
a dull pain in the region of the loins and
sacrum. They are often attended by in-
flammation; their form is circular; they
are given given the circumference, to their
periods of tension, surround a withering
and wrinkling of their coverings; they have

periodical exacerbations, and remissions; then sanguineous discharges; they appear to put a crisis to other diseases, though they do not bleed; and they sometimes degenerate into scirrhus and cancerous ulcers—

Other Surgeons have drawn a distinction between these two forms of tumour, however observation and experience show, that it often has been observed most frequently arise from a varicose state of the veins of the breast, and has also arisen from the same cause, in this case, the varicose veins and go out through the sphincter during the evacuation of the breast, if they remain in this situation any time, their contents coagulate, and thus form one species of pils; though the most common form of external pils arise from an effusion of blood between the mammae, and mucous coats of the intestine—

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...the third of the ...
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...the sixteenth of the ...
...the seventeenth of the ...
...the eighteenth of the ...
...the nineteenth of the ...
...the twentieth of the ...

Sir E. Home, in his work on Ulcers, observes,
that, in cases of long standing, heron ulcers
tumours are changed both in nature and
appearance, their contents is a gelatinous,
and become solid, their coats increase
in thickness, and they resemble pleuritic
effusions in other parts of the body —

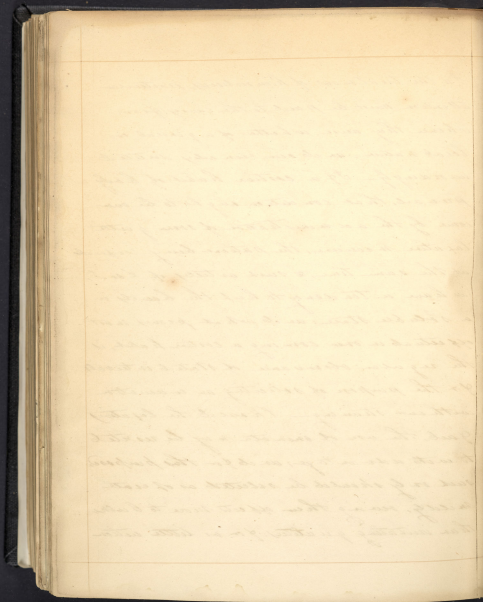
Thinks observing, that George Mead
was dissections, he is inclined to believe,
that, this disease is not of origin in a single
instance, by a same or distortion of the
great heron ulcers, but that they
apt can to consist of a prolongation of
the cellular texture, surrounded by some
vessels, and covered by the integuments
which form the fold of the margin of the
anus. In every case which he was made
of internal heron ulcers, their structure
was very similar, the vessels however
were enlarged in some degree —

Dr James Esch, describes hemorrhoids
tumours as arising, & from a dilatation of
the haemorrhoidal veins, and as such, that
when they are exposed to pressure, their
contents so regulate, and finally become
vascular, resembling an erysipelatous sub-
stance —

This disease may terminate in
several different ways: if they appear
in the form of warts, by the judicious
use of pressure, and by a proper atten-
tion to the bowels the veins may rapidly
be made to contract to their former size,
and if bleeds be opposed, this may
be absorbed, and resolution thus effec-
ted. — When all attempts to progress, it often
lays the foundation of a fistula in ano,
or of a scirrhus, and cancer; sometimes
the patient loses his life from the
hemorrhage, which is at times copious.

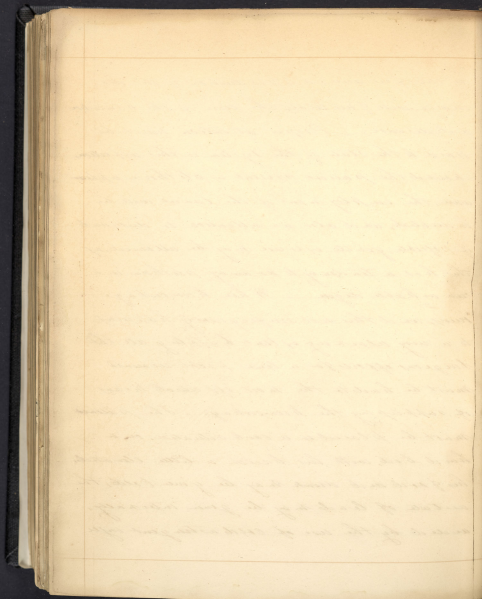
The first thing I noticed when I stepped
out in the morning was a feeling of
the air. It was not a warm blanket
but a cool embrace. The sun was just
beginning to rise, and the world was
still in a state of quietude. I felt
a sense of peace and tranquility that
I had never experienced before. The
scenery was breathtaking, with rolling
hills and a clear blue sky. The
air was fresh and invigorating, and
I felt a sense of freedom and
adventure. It was a perfect day for
a journey, and I was grateful for the
opportunity to explore the world.
The journey was not without its
challenges, but the beauty of the
landscape and the sense of discovery
were worth every moment. I had
heard that the journey was difficult,
but in reality, it was a wonderful
experience. The people I met along
the way were friendly and helpful,
and the food was delicious. I had
heard that the journey was long, but
it felt like it was just a few days
long. I was amazed at the beauty
of the world and the sense of
adventure. It was a truly unforgettable
experience, and I was grateful for the
opportunity to explore the world.

In the treatment of hemorrhoids, particular attention must be paid to the cause from whence they arise, whether of a general or local nature, and to see how they are excited accordingly. If a costive habit of body prevails, that condition ought to be overcome by the administration of some gentle laxative medicine, the patient being confined at the same time, to such articles of food, as have a tendency to keep the bowels in a soluble state; and what proves most effectual in overcoming a costive habit, is the regular observance of stated intervals for the purpose of soliciting an evacuation without straining. Should the laxative fail, the use of enemas may be resorted to with advantage; and for this purpose, such only should be selected as of gentle mildness, leaving them effects more to soothe than irritating qualities. For as little action



an abridgement as yet has to be effected as
possible - I should an enlargement of any
of the abridgements is clear from the remote
cause of this disease, it is evident, that all
attempts to cure the hemorrhoids will prove
ineffectual, until the primary complaint
be removed, and the progress taken off from
the hemorrhoidal veins - If they proceed
from relaxation and debility of the whole
lining membrane of the prostate, we
must employ such means, as are calculated
to strengthen, and give tone, & on this pur-
pose, Mr. Abernethy recommends, con-
sultation, joined with the Peruvian bark -
The employment of anodynes under these
circumstances, prove very serviceable, but
extending our application to the part, almost
always increases the disease - It has they
arise from the suppression of some long and
foul discharge, and circumstances justifying

an interjection, a reproduction of the dis-
charge will facilitate the cure of the hemorrhoid-
al disease — Proper attention must be
paid to the state of the system in this affection,
should the patient present a plethoric appear-
ance, the employment of the lancet will be
indicated, and also an attention to diet, and
if possible, gentle exercise may be attended, as
this has a tendency to do away with plethoria in a
more or less degree — When hemorrhage
occurs, as it does not infrequently happens
to a very alarming extent, baffling all the
surgeons efforts for a time, prompt recourse
must be had to the most effectual means
of suppressing the hemorrhage — The patient
must be placed in a cool situation, on a
hard bed, with his head a little elevated,
his food and drink may be given cold, the
acetate of lead may be given internally,
aided by the use of cold astringent injec-

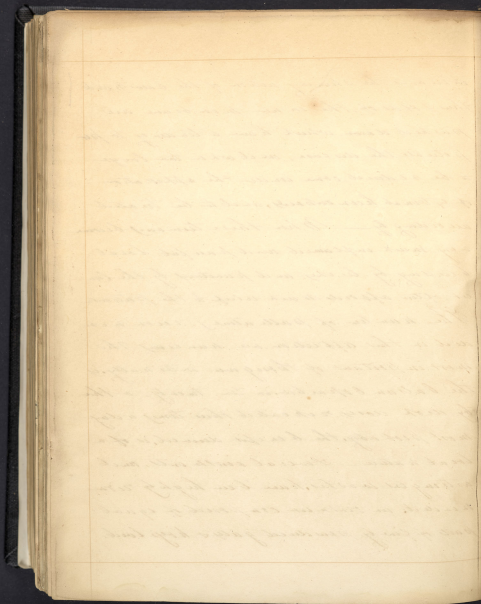


tions: and what some times answers an effect
but purpose, the internal use of Turpentine
which operates by allaying irritation, and
thus restraining the discharge - If the
hemorrhage proceeds from the laceration
of the rectum, the employment of suppositories
by the bougie, and other means, often
succeeds, the employment of cold applica-
tions of turpentine to the neighbouring parts
by means of cloths, or by pouring them
from a height, prove a very powerful
mode of restraining the hemorrhage -

As has been observed before, when inter-
nal hemorrhoids protrude, they ought if
possible to be immediately reduced, for if
they are allowed to remain in their pro-
truded situation, they increase in size, and
in number, & for the contraction of the
sphincter upon them gives rise to severe
pain, which by augmenting the irritation,

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the twenty-sixth of the month of January
the twenty-seventh of the month of January
the twenty-eighth of the month of January
the twenty-ninth of the month of January
the thirtieth of the month of January
the thirty-first of the month of January

increases the shining action of the bowels, and
thus I view of the inflammation be one and
pushed down, which have a tendency to po-
tuate the disease, and when too large
to be reduced, come under the application
of tylenal beer ointment, and to be treated
accordingly. When these tumours become
very much inflamed, and painful, local
bleeding by leeches, and puncturing by the lan-
cet, often affords much relief to the patient.
The number of palliatives, & remedies
used in this affection, are numerous. The
most important of those given internally, is
the Balsam Capivi, in ten, twenty, or thirty
drop doses, repeated three times a day.
Most probably, the benefit derived, is of a
local nature. Several ointments, such
as strong antiseptic washes, have been highly recom-
mended; an ointment composed of equal
parts of finely powdered galls & honey locs.



with the addition of Opium, & the extract
of lead, so also an ointment, formed of
white lead mixed into a paste with
Laudanum, and then incorporated with
simple cerate - An infusion of Oak-gall,
and cold asstringent lotions, have been gen-
erally found useful - A practice made
of the green persimmon, or from a deco-
ction of the bark of the persimmon tree, has
proved extremely serviceable in the hands
of many people - When the hemorrhoids
are about degenerating into fistulae, the
application of Dr. Wadley's paste, has proved
beneficial, in the case of the bath of a
nutmeg, taken twice or three a day -
I should a good deal of the same substance,
it may be counteracted with some mild
oil, or sweet butter or lard, and carefully
replaced within the grasp of the sphinc-
ter muscle -

When haemorrhoidal tumours become insupportable from their magnitude and number, interfering with the function of the intestine, and from their being in an inflamed and ulcerated state, keeping up an irritable action of the parts, and thereby increasing the disease, an operation becomes operationally or effecting a radical cure.

There are two operations now in use among Surgeons, each of which, has its advocates, and each party, equally confident of the superiority of the mode which they have practised. Some advise them to be removed by the knife or scissars, others by the application of ligatures. The last mode appears to deserve a preference, as all danger from hemorrhage is avoided, though the advocates of the first hold out the danger of symptoms of strangulated hernia arising, which in some

instances where the ligature has been applied, have proved extremely obstinate - baffling every remedy, save the removal of the ligature, which immediately calms every urgent symptom.

After having directed the patients for some time, if his system should require it, we draw attention on having been paid to the co-ordination, and regulation of his bowels, if necessary, the patients may be made to sit over a tub of warm water, and the parts bathed in internal warm water, this is a very useful measure, as it greatly facilitates the protrusion of the tumour through the sphincter, by the great relaxation which it produces in the parts chiefly concerned in the operation - Having succeeded in drawing out the tumour by the above means, Mr. Abernethy advises, that they should

be seized by a double hook, of a breadth
corresponding to the length of the tumour,
and is then drawn upwards from the base
of the tumour then with a pair of scissors
He advises a protruded and thickened
fold of the bowels to be seized in the same
manner; though he thinks it safer, to
employ the bistoury in this case, as the
depth to which the scissors may penetrate
is uncertain. The incision in both cases
should be made longitudinally, in the
direction of the long diameter of the bowels,
they resemble curved lines joined at each
extremity. The operation having been
performed, he suffers the wound to
bleed as long as it is disposed to do so,
and after it entirely ceases, the parts
are to be completely replaced in their
proper situation by the finger previously
anointed. An irritation is a cause of

of haemorrhage from the small vessels, and
as the laceration of any part of the bowels
in the neighbourhood of the sphincter would
produce it, he advises this part of the
operation to be carefully attended to—
The patient should be placed in a
horizontal position, the parts exposed
and the parts in the neighbourhood
of the anus frequently wetted with
cold water, to prevent inflammation
and consequent haemorrhage—

Mr. Pitt, as well as other equally res-
pectable surgeons, are on record that
them owing to be always removed by the
ligature— The patient should un-
dergo the same preparatory treatment
as was adopted in the former ope-
ration, as haemorrhage is to be as
carefully guarded against in this case,
as inflammation in the other—

I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on
in the way of your studies and your
health. I hope you are well and happy
and that you are making good progress
in your studies. I have been thinking
of you very much lately and wondering
how you are getting on. I hope you
are well and happy and that you are
making good progress in your studies.
I have been thinking of you very much
lately and wondering how you are getting
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making good progress in your studies.

The most approved method of removing
haemorrhoidal tumours is by means of the
double canula and wire as recommended
by Dr. Physick, or the removal of scirrhous
or enlarged tonsils. The canula should
be at least 9 or 10 inches in length; the wire
used, should be in diameter, at one end
twenty fourth part of an inch, being suf-
ficiently stiff to admit of being easily
disengaged from the tumour, when necessary.
The canula being inserted, may be
applied, according to the opinion of
Mr. Ware, to the most enlarged and
painful tumour in the bunch; the other
frequently disappear, if otherwise, the
operation may be performed on the remain-
ing tumours successively, one after the other.
The canula should be allowed to remain
about twenty four hours, and then care-
fully removed; the tumours are thrown off

by a sloop, in the course of three or four
days. — After the operation, the pa-
tient's diet should be carefully regulated,
the nourishment given, ought to be of
the most nutritive quality, and as
small in quantity as possible, as the
necessity of evacuating the alimentary
canal, should be delayed, in order to
give the wounded parts an opportunity
of uniting. Should the bowels become
irritable, an opiate pill, or a few drops of
Camdanum may be exhibited to tranqui-
lize them: however, should the whole
peristaltic become deranged, as it a
necessity exist, demanding an evacuation,
we may employ some gentle laxative.
When these circumstances it has been ob-
served, that the patient should not attempt
to evacuate his bowels, till his sensations
become urgent; and then it should be

affected with as little effort as possible;
if any part of the wound be detached
by the passage of the fang, it should
be immediately replaced; and if
necessary, a small quantity of Can-
dium may be administered to tran-
quillize the intestines. The wound
generally heals in the course of eight
or ten days, provided no untoward
circumstances occur during the progress
of the cure.

